The member referred to the tanks of Malegere, Sindegere and Bundgere in the Chamrajnagar Taluk and stated that the ryots were willing to pay a cess of 4 annas if Government would appoint sowdies for the distribution of water and take up the maintenance.

Reply of Government.—No general rule can be laid down. In cases where the ryots consider that such a course is necessary in their interest, they may submit a *mahazar* and apply for the levy of a cess.

SUBJECT No. 87.

Providing pipes and sluices to branch channels.

Mr. Venkoba Rao, Hole-Narsipur Municipality.

Summary of discussion.—According to the rules, repairs to branch channels are to be done by ryots alone. It is seen that in many instances a lot of water is taken by the holders of lands which are immediately below the point where the channel commences so that the lands which are at the tail end go without water. In order to regulate the supply of water properly, it is prayed that pipes or sluices may be provided to branch channels as is being done to main ones, the owners of the lands concerned bearing the cost of providing such pipes or sluices

Reply of Government.—This is done wherever it is found necessary and special instances in which more pipes and sluices are required for the distribution of water should be brought to the notice of the local authorities.

SUBJECT No. 88.

Clearing the silt in the main channels of major tanks.

Mr. A. Narasimhiengar, Sagar Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—At present only the major tanks are repaired by the Public Works Department and not main channels. As the ryots cannot repair these channels properly at their own cost, considering the heavy outlay required for the purpose, it is prayed that the Public Works Department may be ordered to put these channels in order and hand them over to the Revenue Department for being maintained under proper supervision.

Reply of Government.—To maintain the channels in proper condition is primarily the obligation of the ryots.

SUBJECT No. 89.

Weirs and bunds of tanks.

Mr. Ramanujiengar, Gubbi Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—Most of the tanks in the State—small and large—were built long ago and their capacities have now diminished to an appreciable extent owing to the accumulated silt in them. The crops raised on the lands under them suffer for want of sufficient supply of water. In these circumstances, the waste weirs and the bunds of the tanks will have to be raised to ensure a sufficient supply of water to the lands under them. Appointing patels as Chairmen of the Tank Panchayets is not desirable. This may lead to abuses in the distribution of water as well as in the utilisation of grass growing on tank bunds and *pasavara.*

The duty of distributing water in the tanks to the lands under them should not be left in the hands of the village servants. It may be entrusted to the

Public Works Department at least in respect of tanks whose revenue is Rs. 5,000 and upwards.

Mr. Venkatachar.—The capacity of a tank should not be increased unless there is certain prospect of more lands being irrigated. It is very difficult for the ryots to prevent the accumulation of silt. The Government should issue strict rules regarding distribution of water and prevent interference with the channel. It is impossible to expect the people to combine and arrange these things for themselves.

Reply of Government.—As far as possible, remedies are being provided but the ryots should take more interest in the maintenance of tanks and channels and prevent waste of water. The Tank Panchayet Bill has been introduced with a view to provide the people with greater facilities to overcome such inconveniences.

SUBJECT No. 90.

Removal of silt from minor tanks.

Mr. A. Narasimhiengar, Sagar Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—Several minor tanks in the malnad are now in a deplorable condition for want of repairs. They are silted up and consequently the underground springs are closed up. Unless the accumulated silt is removed, the repairs done to these tanks will not be of any use. It is therefore prayed that the silt of a few tanks at least may be cleared at Government cost for the benefit of cultivation. It is not possible for the ryots to remove the deposits of dried and rotten leaves from these springs, which are known as *neerkannus*. If the Chief Engineer would visit the locality, the member would show some of these tanks to him, when he would be able to see how hopeless it would be for the ryots to undertake to repair them.

Reply of Government.—The member should send a list of a few such tanks to the Chief Engineer who would then be able to study the question on the spot and make the necessary suggestions to Government. The subject is noted for consideration along with the question of malnad tanks generally.

SUBJECT No. 91.

Supervision of works executed by revenue agency.

Messrs. Rangappa and Ramappa, Srinivaspur Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—The present class of Tank Inspectors may be replaced by better paid and more qualified men and an Assistant Engineer attached to the district to supervise works executed by revenue agency. In the Srinivaspur Taluk, a tank work that was partly executed (Bychepallikunte) had to be given up as the estimate was grossly defective and drawn up by a Tank Inspector who did not know anything about grades.

Reply of Government.—The Tank Inspectors that are now appointed are properly qualified and have received some professional training. During the last distress